

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for handling ecommerce requests[[.]], comprising:

a processor[[.]];

[[(a)]] a plurality of applications, each configured to process requests in respective transformed formats, wherein each request is received from one of a plurality of requesting entities in respective original format and mapped to the respective transformed format, wherein each of the respective original formats [[are]] is different from one another[[.]];

[[(b)]] at least one specification document containing metadata defining relationships between data of the requests in the respective original formats and data of the requests in the respective transformed formats, wherein the metadata comprises a plurality of metadata instances each of the metadata instances defining a mapping between one of the original formats and the respective transformed format of a respective request; and

[[(c)]] a flow manager which, when executed by the processor, is configured to, for each request, perform a process utilizing the metadata to convert the request in the original format to the transformed format, wherein the process comprises:

identifying which application of the plurality of applications the metadata specifies for handling the request;

invoking an access method specific to the identified application[[.]], the access method being defined by the metadata;

retrieving, by the access method, a list of field elements that describe the inputs required by the identified application;

for each input field element in the list[[.]], retrieving a corresponding value from the request in the original format;

placing each retrieved value in a data structure having the transformed format[[.]]; and

invoking the identified application using an invocation method specific to the identified application and specified by the access method, whereby the application takes the data structure as input to perform the request.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the request is a purchase order and the data comprises fields of the purchase order.

5-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the original format comprises at least one of cXML, mXML, xCBL, OCl, and ebXML.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one specification document comprises references to a plurality of access methods[.]; including the invoked access method, each access method configured to define, a respective interface to at least one of the plurality of applications.

10-17. (Cancelled)